



# **News Release**

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **MORE THAN TWO DOZEN IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO SPEED-UP THE PROCESSING OF ARRESTEES AT CENTRAL BOOKING**

### **Correctional Veteran Mitchell Franks Named New Warden**

TOWSON, MD (July 6, 2005)---The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has implemented more than two dozen technological and staffing improvements at Baltimore Central Booking and Intake Center which will speed the booking process for arrestees at one of the nation's busiest booking centers.

Additionally, Commissioner William J. Smith of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services has named veteran correctional administrator and warden Mitchell Franks as Central Booking's new warden, effective today.

Franks, a 22-year veteran in the Maryland correctional system, replaces Susan Murphy, who announced her retirement last month.

DPSCS Secretary Mary Ann Saar and Commissioner Smith have implemented major changes in an effort to improve the booking process at Central Booking. Among them are major investments in technology and enhanced supervision of the process for booking arrestees, who frequently number more than 300 per day.

The improvements include:

- New hardware and software for the computerized booking system
- Additional handheld scanners and batteries for arrestee tracking
- 142 new PCs ordered to replace obsolete models
- 74 new printers ordered; 56 have been deployed
- New technician to be hired, resulting in virtually around-the-clock on-site technical support
  
- 3 new fingerprint machines purchased, currently being tested
- Second mug shot PC installed
- 120 new desktop scanners purchased to replace older units

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- 30 new signature pads purchased
  - Reorganized IT staff at Central Booking and hired dedicated director
  - Supervisory staff to monitor the queue 24/7
  - Time-prioritizing procedure for arrestees approaching the 24-hour limit
  - Weekly multi-agency meetings to monitor conditions and improve communications
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- Staffing analysis for Central Booking underway
  - Consultant to conduct full assessment of the entire process

“This is a very complex multi-agency problem, “ says Commissioner Smith of the Division of Pretrial Detention and Services. “DPDS is committed to responding collaboratively, and we already have committed significant resources to streamline the booking process and overcome our technological shortcomings.”

The volume of arrests in the City of Baltimore continues to far exceed the design capacity of Central Booking, which was built to handle 65,000 annual arrestees at a time when the City was averaging approximately 45,000. Last year, the facility took in more than 100,000 men and women.

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